

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JIMMY LLOYD ALEXANDER,  
Petitioner,  
v.  
DANIEL E. CUEVO,  
Respondent.

Case No. [21-cv-05232-WHO](#) (PR)

**SECOND ORDER TO SHOW  
CAUSE**

**INTRODUCTION**

Petitioner Jimmy Lloyd Alexander seeks federal habeas relief from his state convictions for kidnapping, robbery, and rape. His second amended petition for habeas relief is now before me for review pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2243 and Rule 4 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases.

The second amended petition, which is now the operative petition in this action, states cognizable claims. Accordingly, on or before **July 10, 2023**, respondent shall file an answer or a dispositive motion in response to the claims raised in the operative habeas petition, with the exceptions described below.

Alexander may not file any other petitions without obtaining leave of court before filing any petition. Any petition filed without obtaining prior leave of court will be summarily dismissed.

**BACKGROUND**

According to the original petition and the state appellate opinion, in 2017 a Monterey County Superior Court jury found Alexander guilty of kidnapping, second degree robbery, rape, sodomy, and oral copulation. (Pet., Dkt. No. 1 at 1-2; *People v.*

1 *Alexander*, No. H045599, 2020 WL 2188866, at \*8 (Cal. Ct. App. May 6, 2020).) In 2018,  
2 a sentence of 175 years to life, with the possibility of parole, was imposed. (*Id.*) His  
3 attempts to overturn his convictions in state court were unsuccessful. This federal habeas  
4 petition followed.

5 I dismissed the original petition with leave to amend because Alexander’s claim that  
6 the prosecutor knowingly used false evidence lacked sufficient facts to state a claim for  
7 relief. (Order Dismissing Petition, Dkt. No. 10 at 2.) After he filed a first amended  
8 petition, I issued an Order to Show Cause. (Dkt. Nos. 14 and 15.) In response to the OSC,  
9 respondent filed a motion to dismiss for failure to exhaust state remedies. (Dkt. No. 18.)  
10 Alexander did not file an opposition, but instead filed a second amended petition without  
11 leave of court, and a letter in which he asked the court to proceed on his exhausted claims  
12 only and left it to me whether to proceed on the first or second amended petition. (Dkt.  
13 Nos. 20 and 23.) Respondent filed a reply in which he stated that the second amended  
14 petition was filed without leave of court and contains unexhausted claims. (Reply, Dkt.  
15 No. 22.) Because it was unclear which petition should be the operative one, I ordered  
16 Alexander to inform me which petition he wished to use. (Dkt. No. 24.) Alexander has  
17 filed a response in which he states that he wishes to proceed with the exhausted claims in  
18 the second amended petition. (Dkt. No. 25.)

### 19 **DISCUSSION**

20 A district court may entertain a petition for writ of habeas corpus “in behalf of a  
21 person in custody pursuant to the judgment of a State court only on the ground that he is in  
22 custody in violation of the Constitution or laws or treaties of the United States.” 28 U.S.C.  
23 § 2254(a). In considering an application for a writ of habeas corpus, the court shall “award  
24 the writ or issue an order directing the respondent to show cause why the writ should not  
25 be granted, unless it appears from the application that the applicant or person detained is  
26 not entitled thereto.” 28 U.S.C. § 2243. Summary dismissal is appropriate only where the  
27 allegations in the petition are vague or conclusory, palpably incredible, or patently  
28 frivolous or false. *See Hendricks v. Vasquez*, 908 F.2d 490, 491 (9th Cir. 1990).

1  
2 As grounds for federal habeas relief, Alexander alleges in his second amended  
3 petition that (1) there was insufficient evidence of force or fear to support the kidnapping  
4 conviction; (2) the trial court erroneously admitted expert testimony; (3) his sentence  
5 violates the Eighth Amendment; and (4) the trial court failed to give appropriate jury  
6 instructions regarding expert witness testimony. When liberally construed, Claims 2-4 are  
7 cognizable and shall proceed.

8 Respondent asserts that Claim 1 is partially unexhausted and untimely. Respondent  
9 asserts, and Alexander does not dispute, that part of Claim 1 (that the prosecutor  
10 knowingly used expert testimony) is unexhausted. (Reply, Dkt. No. 22 at 4.) Accordingly,  
11 the subclaim that the prosecutor knowingly presented false evidence is DISMISSED.

12 For screening purposes at least, I conclude that the remainder of Claim 1 relates  
13 back to a timely-filed claim and can proceed. This is a close question. AEDPA's one-year  
14 statute of limitations started running on March 23, 2021, which is the day after the United  
15 States Supreme Court denied Alexander's petition for writ of certiorari. (Mot. to Dismiss  
16 (MTD), Letter from Clerk, Dkt. No. 18 at 367.) This means that Alexander had until  
17 March 24, 2022 to file a timely petition. Respondent grants that he is entitled to twelve  
18 days of tolling while his petition was pending in the state superior court (that is, from  
19 December 21, 2021 to January 10, 2022), which extended the filing deadline to April 3,  
20 2022. (*Id.* at 5.) He is not entitled to any tolling for time a second petition in the state  
21 superior court was pending (April 19, 2022 to May 11, 2022) because the limitations had  
22 expired before the petition was filed. State petitions filed after the limitations period  
23 expired cannot toll the statute of limitations. *Ferguson v. Palmateer*, 321 F.3d 820, 823  
24 (9th Cir. 2003). The second amended petition was filed on August 30, 2022, which is past  
25 the April 3, 2022 deadline.

26 The claim can survive an untimeliness challenge only if it relates back to a timely  
27 filed petition. "An amended habeas petition . . . does not relate back (and thereby escape  
28 AEDPA's one-year time limit) when it asserts a new ground for relief supported by facts

1 that differ in both time and type from those the original pleading set forth.” *Mayle v. Felix*,  
2 545 U.S. 644, 650 (2005) (new coerced confession claim did not relate back to the original  
3 petition that raised only a factually distinct Confrontation Clause claim). A claim relates  
4 back to the date of the original pleading only if the original and amended pleadings  
5 “‘ar[i]se out of the conduct, transaction, or occurrence.’” *Id.* at 655 (quoting Fed. R. Civ.  
6 P. 15(c)(2)). Only if the original and amended petition state claims that are tied to a  
7 common core of operative facts will the new claim in an amended petition relate back to  
8 the filing date of the original petition. *See id.* at 664-65. *Mayle* explicitly rejected the  
9 proposition that the “same ‘conduct, transaction, or occurrence’ [means the] same ‘trial,  
10 conviction, or sentence.’” *Id.* at 664.

11 In the original petition, Alexander made the following claims: “(1) new evidence  
12 shows that a witness’s testimony was false, which means he was denied his due process  
13 right to a fair trial; (2) expert testimony was wrongly admitted in violation of due process;  
14 and (3) his sentence violates the Eighth Amendment.” (Order Dismissing Petition, Dkt.  
15 No. 10 at 2.) In the first amended petition, Alexander included the following claims: “(1)  
16 the prosecutor knowingly presented false evidence; (2) the trial court violated his right to a  
17 fair trial by allowing a witness change her statements repeatedly; (3) the trial court  
18 admitted irrelevant and prejudicial expert testimony; (4) his sentence violates the Eighth  
19 Amendment; (5) the trial court failed to give appropriate jury instructions regarding the  
20 testimony of Dr. Mechanic; and (6) the trial court presented the jury with a legally  
21 insufficient theory of kidnapping by giving faulty instructions.”

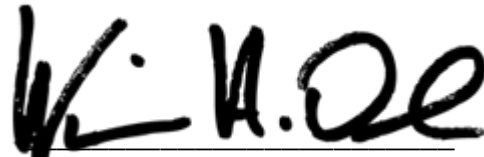
22 At this stage, I conclude that the insufficiency of the evidence claim relates back to  
23 the jury kidnapping instruction claim and that Claim 1 can proceed, except for the  
24 unexhausted subclaim that the prosecutor presented false evidence. Alexander discusses  
25 sufficiency of evidence in his larger claim of the allegedly flawed jury instruction. (First  
26 Am. Pet., Dkt. No. 13-4 at 2-7.) Respondent is not precluded from challenging whether  
27 the claim relates back as the case proceeds.  
28

**CONCLUSION**

On or before **July 10, 2023**, respondent shall file an answer addressing the merits of Claims 1-4 in the second amended petition. The subclaim regarding the use of false evidence is DISMISSED. Alexander's traverse shall be filed within 30 days after the answer is filed. The petition shall be deemed submitted on the day the traverse is due.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**Dated:** April 7, 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. H. Orrick', written over a horizontal line.

WILLIAM H. ORRICK  
United States District Judge